

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-16

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R 221234Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9662

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2044

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, TECH, KU, FR

SUBJ: KUWAIT-FRANCE ENERGY RESEARCH COOPERATION

1. DURING BRIEFING FOR VISITING GROUP FROM INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE OF ARMED FORCES KUWAIT FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL REVEALED THAT KUWAIT AND FRANCE HAVE AGREED TO COOPERATE IN RESEARCH ON SOLAR ENERGY AND ENERGY FROM SEA CURRENTS. APPARENTLY PRELIMINARY AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED DURING THE RECENT MEETING IN PARIS OF THE KUWAIT/FRANCE ECONOMIC COMMISSION.

2. NOT CLEAR WHETHER KUWAITIS OR FRENCH TOOK INITIATIVE. PROBABLY KUWAITIS INDICATED A GENERAL INTEREST IN ENERGY RESEARCH COOPERATION AND FRENCH WERE FIRST TO COME UP WITH SPECIFIC PROPOSAL. KUWAITI OFFICIAL INSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT GOK WILLING DEAL WITH OTHERS AND HE CHIDED USG FOR NOT BEING MORE ACTIVE IN SEEKING COOPERATION WITH KUWAIT IN RESEARCH ON ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY.

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3. COMMENT: KUWAITI OFFICIALS HAVE INFORMALLY TOLD US FROM TIME

TO TIME THAT THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH THE US IN
ENERGY RESEARCH. WE ARE NOT AWARE, HOWEVER, OF ANY FORMAL
PROPOSALS BY THEM. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL SPOKE IN THE
PRESENCE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND
OIL WHO APPEARED TO AGREE THAT KUWAIT WAS INTERESTED IN
COOPERATING WITH THE US. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER
WHETHER THE EMBASSY SHOULD FOLLOW UP AND TRY TO DETERMINE MORE
PRECISELY WHETHER THE GOK IS INTERESTED IN MORE FORMAL
COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIPS IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY RESEARCH.
STOLTZFUS

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